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A  
**DISSERTATION**

On the ORIGIN of the

**VENEREAL DISEASE.**

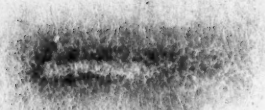
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PROVING

That it was not brought from  
*America*, but began in *Europe* by  
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Translated from the Original MANUSCRIPT  
of an eminent Physician.

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Printed for R. GRIFFITHS, in *St. Paul's*  
*Church-Yard.* 1751.

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A

# DISSERTATION

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## VENEREAL DISEASE.

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### S E C T. I.

*Authorities to prove that the Venereal Disease was known, and even spread over the greatest Part of Europe in the Year 1493; at farthest in the Month of June, 1495.*

**B**EFORE we enter upon the Enquiry, whether the Venereal Disease was brought from *America*, or began in *Europe* by a sudden and malignant Epidemia, we shall produce the Authorities of those Authors who have mentioned this Distemper.

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*Baptista Fulgosa* (1) affirms, that the Venereal Disease was known in *Italy* two Years before *Charles VIII.* King of *France* came thither. This Prince arrived at *Rome* the latter End of *December* 1494 (2); consequently this Distemper must have been known in that Country, so early as the Beginning of the Year 1493. It was also in this same Year, that it broke out in *Auvergne* (3).

It

(1) Lib. I. sub finem Cap. IV. pag. 29. Edit. *Paris*, 1578. 8vo. *Biennio antequam*, &c.

“ Two Years before the Arrival of *Charles VIII.* in *Italy*, a Distemper was discovered, neither the Name whereof, nor Remedies, could be found by the Physicians in all the Writings of the Ancients, it had different Appellations, according to the Countries; in *France*, they called it the *Neapolitan* Disease; whereas in *Italy*, they called it the *French*; and in other Places it had other Names, &c.”

(2) *Mariana de rebus Hispaniæ* ad annum 1494. Cap. VI.

(3) *Gaspar Torella* in *Aphrosidiaco*, five de *Lue venerea*. Edit. *Boerhaave*, *Lugdun. Bata-*  
*vor.* 1728. 2 Tom. fol. p. 493.

“ This



It is said in an Arret of the Parliament of *Paris*, (1) dated the 6th of *March* 1496, that the Venereal Disease had for two Years past been spreading itself in *Paris*, and other Places of the Kingdom. The Beginning of the Year being, at that time fixed to the 25th of *March*, the Date of this Arret, according to the Account at present, followed by the *French*, falls on the 6th of *March*

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“ This virulent Malady began in the Year  
 “ 1493 in *Auvergne*, and from thence its  
 “ Contagion made its way into *Spain*, the  
 “ Islands, &c. p. 3.

(1) Astruc Lib. I. de morbis venereis, Cap. XV. pag. 109. 2d. Edict. of the Parliament of *Paris*, relating to the Disease, called the Great Pox, on the 6th of *March* 1496.

“ This Day, being the 6th of *March*, be-  
 “ cause that in this City of *Paris* great  
 “ Numbers were infected with a certain con-  
 “ tagious Distemper called the Great Pox,  
 “ which for this two Years past has great-  
 “ ly spread itself in this Kingdom, both  
 “ in the City of *Paris*, and other Places ;  
 “ wherefore, &c.”

of the following Year, 1697. consequently, the latest Era of the Appearance of the Venereal Disease at *Paris*, is the Month of *June*, 1495 ; for it was known two Years before the above-mentioned Arret.

*James Cataneus* says, that this Distemper began to shew itself in *Italy* in the Year 1494, at the Time when *Charles VIII.* of *France* invaded the Kingdom of the *Two Sicilies* (2). To ascertain what Time of the Year 1494 this Transaction happened ; it must be observed, that *Charles VIII.* made his Entry into *Rome*, the last Day of the Month of *December* in that Year ; that he arrived at *Naples* the 22d of *February*, 1495 ; and that he left it on the

(2) *Aphrosidiac*, Tom. i. Chap. I. p. 139.  
 “ In the Beginning of the Year 1494, when  
 “ *Charles VIII.* King of *France*, invaded the  
 “ Kingdom of *Naples*, a horrid Distemper,  
 “ unknown to former Ages, broke out in  
 “ *Italy*, &c.” *Astruc*, Tom. II. de morb. vener.  
 ad an. 1494.



the 20th of *May* following, when he returned into *Lombardy* (3). This therefore proves, that it must have been in Winter of 1494, or at farthest, in the Spring 1495, that the Venereal Distemper began in *Italy*. *Nicholas Leonicens* assigns it the Date (4).

*Marcel. Cumanus*, Physician and Surgeon to the *Italian* Army, consisting of *Venetians* and *Milanese*, which besieged the City *Novara*, declares (5), that he had under his

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(3) *Mariana*, *ibid.* loc. citat.

(4) *De Epidemia quam Itali morbum Gallicum*, pag. 113. operum Editionis *Basileæ*, 1532. fol. " But it is commonly called the "*French* Disease, as thought the Contagion thereof had been brought into *Italy* by the *French*, or that, at the same time, *Italy* had been ravaged both by the Distemper and Arms of *France*."

(5) *Apud Georg. Lieron. Welschii Syllogæ curation. et observation. medicinal. observ. 4to.* " Whilst I was in the Camp at *Navarra* (which Mr. *Astruc* very judiciously corrects into *Novara*) with the *Venetian* and

Care in that Camp, many, both *Venetians* and *Milanese*, who had the Venereal Disease in 1495. It is certain, that the Siege of *Novara* lasted from the 14th of *July* to the 10th of *October* 1495 (5). Consequently, the Distemper in Question was known before the Month of *October*, 1495.

*Bourdigne* observed this Distemper in *France* in the Year 1495 ;  
as

“ and *Milanese* Troops, I declare that I saw  
“ several of both Countries, Officers and  
“ Soldiers, from an Ebullition of Humours,  
“ caused, I believe, by the Influence of the  
“ Air, whose Faces and Bodies were covered  
“ with loathsome Blotches, which began  
“ either under or above the Preputium like  
“ a Grain of Millet, or upon the Glans of the  
“ Penis, attended with a Pruritus, and after  
“ some Days, they became terribly afflicted  
“ with Pains in their Arms, Thighs, and  
“ Legs, with very large Blotches. It was  
“ with great Difficulty that the most skil-  
“ ful Physicians could cure them, &c.”

(5) *Commines* Lib. VIII. Cap. VII. pag. 130. Tom. II. Edit. *Brussel*. *Guicciardino* ad annum 1495.



as appears from a Passage quoted from this Author by M. Astruc (6).

Anthony Cocci Sabellius says expressly in 1496, that in the Beginning of the preceding Year, a new Distemper appeared in *Italy*, at the Time of the *French* Army's Arrival there. And this Author believes, that from this Circumstance, it acquired the Name of the *French* Distemper (7).

It

(6) Lib. I. de morb. vener. Cap. V. p. 37.

“ I must not omit, that in this Year 1495,  
“ *France* was visited with a Distemper, which  
“ the *French* called the Great Pox, or *Nea-*  
“ *politian* Itch, because, &c.”

(7) Tom. II. *Basileæ* Enead. X. Lib. IX.  
p. 1037. “ At the same Time a new kind  
“ of Distemper began to spread over all *Italy*,  
“ about the Time of the first Expedition of  
“ the *French* into that Country, which had  
“ been begun the Year before, and on this  
“ Account, it is probable, that the Disease  
“ acquired the Name of *French*; for its  
“ Origin, from what I can discover, is very  
“ uncertain. However, it is a most terrible  
“ Distemper, and was never felt before in  
“ any Age, &c.”

It has already been observed, that the *French Army* arrived in *Italy* during the Winter 1494, and that *Charles VIII.* made his Entry into *Rome* on the last Day of *December* in the same Year. These two Facts being proved, it follows from the Narrative of the Author just mentioned, who was an Eye-witness of it, that the Venereal Disease broke out in *Italy* in the Month of *December* 1494; or at farthest in *February* 1495.

It would be useless to give a longer Detail of Authorities, which abound in such Historians and Physicians, as have mentioned the Epocha of the Venereal Disease: It is abundantly sufficient to cite only those who saw its first Appearance both in *Italy* and *France*. A due Consideration of the positive Assertions we have quoted, and which are irrefragable, must convince any one that the Venereal Disease was known  
in.



in *Italy* at the Beginning of the Winter 1494 ; and that its Appearance in *France* must, at farthest, be placed in the Month of *June*, in the following Year 1495. The Accounts of *Fulgosa* and *Torella*, if strictly observed, warrant an Inference, that the Venereal Distemper was far from being unknown in *Italy* and *France* in the Year 1493. However, waving that Opinion, we shall keep to the Epocha expressed in the Arret of the Parliament of *Paris*, and in the Writings of *Cataneus*, *Cumanus*, and *Sabellius*. These Authorities afford evident Proofs, that the Venereal Disease was known in *Italy* and *France* at the Beginning of the Year 1495 ; or, at farthest, in the Month of *June* in the same Year.

SECT,

## S E C T. II.

*The Time of the Discovery of Hispaniola by Christopher Columbus; and the Times of his Returns into Spain from his first and second Voyages.*

**N**O Author whatever can give a better Account of the Fact now under Consideration than *Ferdinand Columbus*, who has written the Life of his Father *Christopher Columbus*. This Author may be relied on : *Oviedo* quoted him with great Encomiums, both on his Capacity and deep Knowledge in several Sciences. (1) In the Preface, which introduces the Life of his Father, he tells us, that he made several Voyages with him ; and that through the Work, he has kept close to the Letters and Memoirs which

(1) *Historia general de las Indias. Sevilla 1535. fol.*



which he had from him, adding only such Things as he himself had seen. For want of the *Spanish* Original (2) of this Work of *Ferdinand Columbus*, I have made use of an accurate *Italian* Translation of it by *Alphonso Ulloa* (3).

He says in the Body of the Work, that his Father sailed out of the Harbour of *Palos* in the Year 1492; and that he kept an exact Journal, not only of the Ship's Reckoning, but also of every Particular worthy of Observation, both with regard to Natural History, and what might facilitate the Discovery of the Countries he was searching after (4).

Don

(2) *Nicholas Anthony*, says in his *Bibliotheca Hispanica*, that he never saw it. *Biblio. nova. Tom. I. p. 285. sub. Ferdinando Colon.*

(3) *Historia del S. D. Fernando Columbo*, containing a true and particular Account of the Life and Actions of Admiral *Christopher Columbus*, his Father, lately translated from the *Spanish* into *Italian*, by *Alfonso Ulloa Venetia, M.D.LXXI.* appresso *Francesco de Franceschi Sanese.*

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(4) *Ibid.* Cap. XV. p. 38 & 38. b.

Don *Ferdinand* mentions four several Voyages, which his Father made to *America*. In the first he departed from the Harbour of *Palos*, on the 3d or 4th of *August* 1492, returning on the 13th of *March* 1493. He set sail on his second Voyage the 25th of *September* 1493, and returned on the 8th of *June* 1496. His Departure for the third Voyage, was on the 30th of *May* 1498, and his Return on the 20th of *November* 1500. Lastly, he undertook his fourth Voyage on the 9th of *May* 1502, and arrived in *Spain* in the Beginning of the Year 1505. Now, let us closely examine the several Particulars of these Voyages, and compare their Dates with that of the Commencement of the Venereal Distemper in *Europe*, in order to determine in which of these four several Voyages this Distemper was brought over from *Ame-*



*America*, as so many celebrated Authors will have it to be.

It was the 16th of *January* 1493, when *Colombus* left *Hispaniola* on his Return from his first Voyage. He was forced by Strefs of Weather to put in at the *Azores* Islands (4), and afterwards at *Lisbon*, where he arrived on the 4th of *March* in the same Year (5). King *John* II. received him very graciously, and ordered Scarlet Clothes for the *Indians* he had brought over with him (6). *Columbus* staid nine Days at *Lisbon*, and then set sail on the 13th of *March*, anchoring at *Seville* on the 15th of the same Month of *March*, 1493; seven Months and four Days after his Departure from

(4) *Historie del S. Fernando Columbo*, Cap. XXXVIII. p. 77.

(5) *Ibid.* Cap. XXXIX. p. 82.

(6) *Garcia de Resende*, vida del Rey D. Joaõ. o II. Evora 1554, fol.

*Palos* (1). He left *Seville* in order to proceed to *Barcelona*, where their Catholic Majesties then were, and arrived at that City about the Middle of *April* 1493 (2).

In Company with *Columbus* in this his first Voyage, were three Ships; one of which, commanded by *Martin Alonso Pinzon*, having suffered extremely by contrary Winds, upon their Return from *Hispaniola* to *Seville*, was obliged to put into *Galicia*.

Let us now examine, what Probability there is, that the Venereal Distemper should have been brought from *America* in this first Voyage. Not the least mention is made of this Distemper in the Life of *Christopher Columbus*; and if the Crew, at their Return, had been infected with this Disease, it cannot be supposed, that his Son would have omitted

(1) Colomb. *ibid.* Cap. XLI. p. 84.

(2) *Ibid.* p. 84. 6.



omitted mentioning it. Besides *Resende* would infallibly have taken Notice of such an Event. He was a *Portuguese* Gentleman, who, besides Anecdotes of all the Transactions at Court, was composing an History of the King. If the *Indians*, or the Sailors, who returned with *Columbus*, were infected with this Distemper, they could not have concealed the Symptoms of this new Disease, which at that time, besides being accompanied with excruciating Pains, declared itself in the Face by a ghastly Deformity: So that such a Disfigurement must have been perceived at *Lisbon* and at *Valparaiso*, where they went to be presented to the Court. *Resende* himself says, that he saw *Columbus* and his Retinue; so that, had this new Distemper appeared at that time it could not have escaped him, and the Remarkableness of it, would

doubtless have procured it a Place in his Work.

Besides, some Vestiges of the Origin of the Venereal Disease, would certainly have been found in the Works of *Hernando del Pulgar*, and of *Gonsalo Hernandez de Oviedo*, who were both with the Court at *Barcelona*, when *Columbus* arrived. *Hernando* mentions this Arrival of *Columbus*, and the Discovery of the *Indies*, in an Abridgment at the End of his History; but there is not the least mention of the Venereal Disease. *Oviedo*, in his general History of the *Indies*, is as silent about it, as to this first Voyage, referring the Epocha of this Distemper to *Columbus's* second Voyage, as we shall relate in the Sequel.

If the Venereal Disease had been brought from *America* this first Voyage, the Crew of *Pinzon's* Ship, which put into *Galicia*, might have spread



spread it in those Parts; but then this would have been taken Notice of by the Historians of those Times; yet not one of them mention any such Thing, not even the Physicians, who, if Historians had overlooked it, are always careful to give a particular Account of every new Distemper.

In fine, if all these Proofs fail of having their due Weight; if it be still insisted on that this new Distemper was brought into *Europe* with *Columbus* in his first Voyage, an unanswerable Confutation of this Opinion, may be drawn from the joint Authorities of *Fulgosa* and *Torrelle*, according to whom, it is apparent, that the Venereal Distemper was known in *Europe*, so early as the Beginning of the Year 1493, whereas *Columbus's* Arrival in *Europe* from his first Voyage, was not till the 4th of *March* 1493. Is it not then undeniably clear, that

the Venereal Disease was already spread in *Europe*, before that Navigator had so much as landed in it.

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### SECT. III.

*Whether the Venereal Disease came from America with Columbus in his Return from his second Voyage.*

**A**DMIRAL *Columbus* embarked a second time at *Cadiz*, with seventeen Ships under his Command on the 25th of *September*, 1493, and arrived at *Hispaniola* the same Year. The *Spaniards*, left on this Island by *Columbus* in his first Expedition, having dispersed themselves over the Country in quest of Gold, each of them was for having four or five Wives. This Licentiousness gave Offence to the  
In-

(1) Ibid. Cap. XLIV. p. 92.



*Indians*, who carried their Resentment so far, as to attack the Fort which *Colombus* had erected. They succeeded in their Attempt, burning and killing several *Spaniards* (2). *Colombus* finding *Hispaniola* in this Condition, exerted himself in the best manner to re-establish Order, Quiet and Security, which having accomplished, he put to Sea, with a Design to pass the whole Year, 1494, in making new Discoveries. In this he was successful, for he discovered the Islands of *Cuba* and *Jamaica*; but he underwent a great deal of Hardship and Distress, his Provisions not only failing him, but he himself, and all his Crew, sickened at Sea. It was not without great Difficulty, that in such miserable Circumstances, he could return to *Hispaniola*, where he arrived on the 23d of September, 1494 (3). He

(2) Ibid. Cap. XLIX.

(3) Ibid. from Chap. XLIX to LX.

He found this Island in the greatest Distress and Misery, the *Spaniards* having been reduced, by the Severity and Continuance of the Famine, to eat all kinds of Animals, not excepting Serpents, Lizards and other Reptiles. *Oviedo* assures us, that this Famine was caused by a Want of the Maiz; for the Tyranny of the *Spaniards* had so greatly exasperated the *Indians*, that they would neither sow it, nor cultivate their Lands, looking upon Death as more eligible, than the cruel Slavery in which they lived. Accordingly, great Numbers killed themselves, and most of the rest were swept away by Famine (1), the Havock

(1) Loc. citat. Book II. Chap. XIII. I shall make use of the *French* Translation, printed at *Paris* 1556. folio. p. 28. 6. “Where half  
 “ of his Men died by mere Famine, so that  
 “ only dead *Indians* were to be found all over  
 “ the Country, the Stench of whose Bodies  
 “ was so violent, as to produce a Pestilential  
 “ Distemper among the *Christians*.”



vock whereof was so dreadful, that the Number of the Inhabitants of *Hispaniola*, which, at the Time of its Discovery, were not less than a Million, did not then exceed five hundred (2).

In this deplorable Condition, as it was irremediable, the Admiral left *Hispaniola*, and put to Sea, on the 10th of May 1496, in order to return to *Spain*, with two Ships, and two hundred and twenty-five *Spaniards*, the greatest Part of whom were sickly. The Famine followed them in their Voyage, and reduced them to such Extremities, that the *Spaniards* were for eating the *Indians*, or at least for throwing them over-board, and would certainly have done it, had not the Admiral, in Abhorrence of such an unnatural Expedient, interposed and hindered the Execution. At

(2) Oviedo, *ibid.* Lib. XXX. Cap. VI,  
(Oviedo writ this in the Year 1535.)

At last, he arrived in *Spain* on the 8th of *June*, 1496 (3), and immediately repaired to *Burgos*, where their Catholic Majesties, at that Time, kept their Court, on Account of celebrating the Nuptials of Prince Don *John* with *Margaret* of *Austria*. *Mariana* places this Event from the Middle of *April* to the Month of *June* 1496 (4).

In the History of the Life of *Colombus*, is to be found a curious and circumstantial Account of the several Distempers, with which the *Spaniards*, and the Admiral himself, were afflicted during all their Voyages to the Year 1496 (5). Also every

(3) Ferdinand. Colomb. Loc. citato, Cap. LXIII. p. 149. "On *Wednesday* the 8th of *June*, when the Seamen were at the height of Despair they discovered *Odmira*, which lies between *Lisbon* and *Cape St. Vincent*."

(4) Of the *Spanish Madrid* Edit. Tom. II. p. 496.

(5) Ferdinand. Colomb. Loc. citat. from Chap. LIII. to Chap. LXII. p. 146.



every thing of Moment relating to the Religion, Ceremonies, Customs and Manners of the Country : Even their Physicians are mentioned, who are called *Bubuitibus*. But throughout the whole, there is not one single Word of any epidemical Distemper.

Although Don *Ferdinand* is entirely silent as to any such Thing in the two first Voyages of *Christopher Columbus*, yet *Oviedo* positively affirms, that this Distemper was introduced into *Spain*, on *Columbus's* Return from his second Voyage. But from *Oviedo's* own Narrative, it would be easy to prove, that this Author has fallen into an Error, mistaking for the Venereal Disease, those Sicknesses which were caused by the Famine, and bad Provisions at the Time of that terrible Scarcity, to which the *Spaniards* had been reduced, not only in the Island of *Hispaniola*, but also at Sea ; and  
no

no less in their Discoveries of the Islands of *Cuba* and *Jamaica*, than in their Return from their second Voyage, as above related.

But let us suppose, that the Venereal Disease was actually brought into *Spain*, by the People who came there with *Colombus*, at his Return from his second Voyage, as *Oviedo* will have it (3). This Epocha occasions a Contradiction with the preceding Facts, and which is utterly irreconcilable with *Oviedo's* Assertion. *Colombus's* Return into *Spain* from his second Voyage was not till the Month of *May* 1496; but it is undeniably certain, that the Venereal Distemper had been known

(3) Loc. citat. Lib. II. Cap. XIII. “ And  
 “ because I might be chargeable with Negli-  
 “ gence, if I passed over two new Diseases,  
 “ which attended the *Christians* in the Admiral's  
 “ second Voyage—one of which was brought  
 “ into *Spain* with *Columbus* at his Return  
 “ from his second Voyage, and was from  
 “ thence spread over all the other Provinces,  
 “ and other foreign Countries, &c.”



known in *Italy* in the very Beginning of the Year 1495, and in *France*, at the farthest, in the Month of *June* of the same Year. This demonstrates the Falsity of *Oviedo's* Epocha, the Difference being more than a Year.

Here a Fact offers itself for our Discussion, as it might be made use of to prove, that the Venereal Disease might have been brought from *America* into *Europe*, at that Time, when it is allowed to have been known in *Italy* and *France*. The Fact is this; *Colombus*, on his leaving *Hispaniola*, in his first Voyage to return into *Spain*, delegated the Government of the Island to *Peter Margarita*, with three hundred and seventy-four Men under him. *Margarita* abused the Authority with which he had been intrusted, and dreading a suitable Punishment, he quitted the Island before *Colombus's* Return, and sailed

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for *Spain*. Upon this, the Soldiers who remained in the Island, threw off all Restraint, and committed the most excessive Outrages on the *Indians*. But as soon as *Colombus* was returned to *Hispaniola*, he sent those Criminals to *Spain* in four Ships, under the Command of *Antonio Torres*. These Ships sailed from *Hispaniola* on the 24th of *February* 1495 (1), which was soon after the Flight of *Margarita*.

On this may be founded a Supposition, that the Crews belonging to *Margarita* or *Torres*, brought the Venereal Disease into *Spain* in the Year 1495. To establish this Supposition, and give it the Strength of a Proof, the exact Time of the Arrival of *Margarita* and *Torres* in *Spain*, must be previously authenticated ; but the precise Date of neither of them is to be found in the

(1) Ferdinand. Colomb. Cap. LX. p. 121 and 122.



the Life of the Admiral, and all that is known of them is, that at the time of their Departure, a terrible Famine raged in *Hispaniola*, and that they laboured under several Diseases, occasioned by Hunger and unwholesome Provisions. At the time of *Torres's* Departure, it is remarked, in the Life of the Admiral, that there was not in the Island above nine hundred *Spaniards*, including their Wives and Children, and most of them sick (2). Now, from this Account; it appears, that there was no other Distemper complained of in *Hispaniola*, than those which owed their Origin to the Famine, which favours a Conclusion, that if the Crews of *Margarita* and *Torres* brought any Distemper with them into *Spain*, it was not the Venereal. Besides, it is not sufficiently evident, that *Margarita* ever fled from *Hispaniola*. *Oviedo* makes.

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no

(2) Ibid. p. 123. b. and 124.

no mention of his Escape, but, on the contrary, says that *Margarita* was carried to *Spain* in the Fleet, which returned with *Columbus* from his second Voyage (3). But be that as it will, there is no Proof that the Venereal Distemper was transmitted into *Europe* by the Crews either of *Margarita* or *Torres*. All that has, or can be advanced on this Head, amounts to no more than a Supposition, destitute of Probability.

The Authority on which the great Stress is laid, to prove that the Venereal Disease is of *American* Extraction, is taken from *Oviedo*. This Writer, indeed, expressly avers, that the *Spaniards* brought it

(3) Ibid. Lib. II. Cap. XIII. "This Return of the Admiral to *Spain*, was in the Year 1496, and like a Prisoner — and the King and Queen had also ordered one Buyl a Fryar, *Moses Peter Margurita*, and also the Commander *Gallego*, to be brought over in the same Fleet, &c." Ibid. (s)



it into *Europe* at their Return from their second Voyage ; and in Confirmation of this, he says, that at that very time he saw *Peter Margarita* pale and sick, and that he concluded within himself, that he had the Venereal Disease. Indeed, he is so candid as to add, that though he did not observe any Venereal Pustule on this Adventurer's Face, yet he conjectured, that he at that time suffered the Pains of the Venereal Disease (1). Can such

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kind

(1) Lib. II. Cap. XIV. pag. 32. of the *French Translation*. " It will be sufficient  
 " for the present, to know in what manner  
 " these Diseases were brought from *Hispaniola*, with the Samples of the Gold of  
 " those *Indies*. What I said in the preceding  
 " Chapter, that *Columbus* returned to  
 " *Spain* in the Year 1496, is true, for I have  
 " since seen and conversed with some who  
 " returned to *Castile* in Company with him,  
 " as the Governor *Moses Peter Margarita*,  
 " and the Commanders *Arroyo* and *Gallego*.  
 " ——— This Gentleman *Moses Peter Mar-*  
 " *garita* was extremely ill, and incessantly  
 " con-

kind of Proofs as these warrant  
*Oviedo* to declare, that the Vene-  
 real

“ complaining, and I am apt to believe,  
 “ that he had those Pains upon him (the  
 “ original *Spanish* has it, he was so full of  
 “ Pain and Complaints, that I also believe,  
 “ that he had those Pains which are usual  
 “ with those who have contracted this Dis-  
 “ temper) which they usually feel, who are  
 “ infected with this Distemper; though I did  
 “ not see any Sores upon him, nor any Signs  
 “ of a Pox, (in the Original it is, but I  
 “ saw no Buboes upon him) so that soon  
 “ after, in the Year 1496, this Distemper was  
 “ perceived to have reached the Courtiers,  
 “ which, however, at its Beginning, was only  
 “ among the lower Class of People; and it  
 “ was looked upon as certain, that it was  
 “ contracted by a Commerce with public  
 “ Prostitutes, by libidinous Pleasures, and dis-  
 “ orderly Lufts. Soon after it reached Per-  
 “ sons of the highest Rank. It was a most  
 “ amazing Disease to every one, partly be-  
 “ cause of its Contagion and Humour, and  
 “ partly because of its proving fatal to great  
 “ Numbers. ——— Soon after that illustrious  
 “ General *Gonzales Fernandez de Cordova* was  
 “ sent into *Italy*, with a fine and numerous  
 “ Army (this is a Mistake, for *Cordova* was  
 “ arrived in *Italy* the preceding Year) by their  
 “ Catholick Majesties, &c.”



real Distemper was brought into *Europe* from *America*? And must his Word alone meet with such Deference as to be credited in this Point? Yet this is the only Authority this Opinion can boast, no other Testimony being to be found which in the least makes for it; besides, in the Sequel, it shall be shewn, that the Author contradicts himself in this very Fact, and that from his own Account it is demonstrable, that neither *Margarita's* Crew, nor the two hundred and twenty-five Seamen, who came home with *Colombus*, did bring the Venereal Distemper into *Europe* at their Return from the second Voyage to *America*.

*Oviedo* relates, that the great Humidity of *Hispaniola*, and the unwholesome Provisions which the *Spaniards* were forced to make use of, brought upon them incurable Distempers. And that the Faces of those

those who first arrived in *Spain*, were as yellow as Saffron, and died soon after their return (1). This was doubtless the Cause of *Peter Margarita's* Sickness, and the Paleness of his Face, taken Notice of by *Oviedo*. But he ought not to have concluded from hence, that it was the Venereal Distemper, it being well known that at that time this

(1) Lib. II. Cap. XIII. p. 29. of the *French* Translation. After relating the extreme Famine and Distress which the *Spaniards* suffered in *Hispaniola*, he proceeds, "From which, together with the prodigious Humidity of this Country, were owing several very terrible Distempers, which remained incurable in those it did not deprive of their Lives; and therefore the first *Spaniards*, who returned hither after their Search after Gold, did not bring the Lustre of Gold in their Countenances, but the Colour of Saffron, or of a Lemon, their Complexions being of a yellow Hue, and were withal so ill, that immediately or soon after their Arrival in *Castile*, what with the above-mentioned Famine and Distresses, and their Distempers, they died, &c."



this Distemper shewed itself in the Face by frightful Tumours, and the Author himself owns, that *Margaritha* had none of these. Besides, he adds, (as we have already said, and what cannot be too often repeated) that he concluded, that the Patient must feel great Pains; but he does not say, that he was informed of it by the Patient, and it was such an Information alone that could sufficiently verify the Fact. So that we may not only reasonably doubt of it, but all things duly considered, conclude, that the *Spaniards* brought no other Distemper from *America*, than what were caused by Famine and the Length of their Voyages.

One Circumstance which we may believe upon the Credit of *Oviedo*, because he clearly proves it, is, that the Venereal Distemper broke out in *Spain* in the Year 1496; and that its Ravages were not inferior to those of the Plague itself. We have already shewn

shewn that this very Distemper began in *Italy* above a Year before, consequently it is a palpable Mistake in *Oviedo* to affirm, that this Disease was carried into *Italy* by the Army of *Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordova*. We shall consider the Circumstances of this Expedition, in order to expose and rectify *Oviedo's* Mistake.

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#### S E C T IV.

*Whether the Army of Fernandez de Cordova, communicated the Venerable Distemper to the French.*

IT is well known that *Ferdinand*, King of *Spain*, sent to the Assistance of *Ferdinand*, King of *Naples*, an Army commanded by the famous *Gonzalo de Cordova*, and that this Army was hindered by contrary Winds from reaching *Messina*.



*Messina*, before the 24th of *May*, 1495 (1). *Oviedo* is greatly mistaken, when he says, that there were in *Cordova's* Army several *Spaniards*, who had the Venereal Disease, and that these *Spaniards* had served under *Colombus* in his second Voyage to *America* (2). This is the Vehicle he has found for conveying the Venereal Disease from *Spain* to *Italy*. But this Fact is disproved by Contradictions in *Oviedo* himself, and also by the Historians of those Times. From this Author, and also from *Ferdinand Columbus*, it is certain, that *Colombus* did not return from his second Voyage till the

(1) Mariana, (I follow *P. Charenton's* Translation, *Paris* 1725. 4to. 5 Vol.) in the Year 1495. Tom. IV. p. 173. "*Ferdinand Cordova*, whom his Catholic Majesty sent to the Assistance of the King of *Naples*, had been at first obliged, by contrary Winds, to put into *Majorca*.—— With all his Diligence he could not reach *Messina* before the 28th of *May*, &c."

(2) Lib. XI. Cap. XIV. p. 32. b.

the Year 1496; And *Oviedo* adds, that the Venereal Distemper was brought from *America* at their Return from this second Voyage. If so, the Venereal Disease cannot be said to have been known in the Year 1495, either in *Cordova's* Army, or in *Spain*, or *Italy*.

*Oviedo* is not the only Author, who has misrepresented this Fact. All the Authors in general, who have written on this Subject since the Year 1518, make the *Spanish* Army, under the Command of *Cordova*, to be infected with the Venereal Distemper, and to have communicated it to the *French* Army, which was at *Naples* with *Charles VIII.* The Falsity of these Accounts may be easily shewn, by only observing the Dates of the Events in question.

*Charles VIII.* set out from *Rome* on the 28th of *January* 1495, and came before *Naples* with his Army on



my, on the 22d of *February*, from whence he marched with nine thousand Men on the 20th of *May*, in the same Year. Consequently the *French* Army, headed by their King, had left *Naples*, and were on their March towards *Lombardy* four Days before *Cordova's* Arrival at *Messina*; since it was the 24th of *May*, 1495, before he landed on that Coast. The *Spanish* Army marched from *Messina* into *Calabria*, where, having joined the Troops of *Ferdinand* King of *Naples*, a Battle was fought at *Semenara*, betwixt *Cordova*, and the *French* Army, commanded by the Duke de *Montpensier*, whom *Charles VIII.* had left to defend the Kingdom of *Naples*. According to the Writers of those Times, the Battle of *Semenara* was fought in the Month of *June*, 1495 (1).

(1) Mariana, Loc. citat. Guicciardini ad ann. 1495. London Edit.

This is the first Event which brought the *Spanish* and *French* Armies together ; but let it be observed, that the Soldiers of the Duke *de Montpensier's* Army, who got back to *France*, were only an inconsiderable Number, and these returned by Sea. The Venereal Distemper could not have been communicated either to the *Venetians* or the *Milanese* by those who remained, because all *Italy* being then at Variance with *France*, it was impracticable for the *French* Soldiers to march by Land from the Kingdom of *Naples* to *Lombardy*. Besides, the *Spaniards*, as we have before observed, had not reached *Messina* when *Charles VIII.* left *Naples* with the Army on the 20th of *May, 1495* : Consequently the *Spaniards* could not have communicated the Venereal Distemper to the *French*, when *Charles VIII.* fought the  
the



the Battle of *Fuornovo*, on the 15th of *July* in the same Year.

Let us suppose, contrary to all the Proofs we have alledged, that the *Spaniards* did communicate the Venereal Disease to the *French* immediately after the Battle of *Semenara*. This Battle was fought in the Month of *June*, 1495, which Epoque is posterior to that which is attributed to the Appearance of the Venereal Distemper in *Italy* and *France*, it having been known in *Italy* so early as the Beginning of the Year 1495, and in *France* in the Month of *June* of the same Year: Consequently the *Spaniards* could not be the original Propagators of a Disease, which was known in *Italy* before their Arrival in that Country. So that it is contrary to all Argument and Historical Faith to maintain, that the *French* Army, commanded by their King *Charles VIII.* and that of the *Venetians* and

*Milaneſe*, got the firſt Infections of the Venereal Diſtemper from the *Spaniſh* Army.

It would have been ſufficient only to have ſhewn, that the *Spaniſh* Army was free from the Venereal Diſtemper, and we have already alledged ſo many convincing Proofs of this, that a Repetition would be needleſs.

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## SECT. V.

*Answers to ſome Objections tending to prove that the Venereal Diſtemper was brought from America.*

**H**ERE it might be objected from *Oviedo*, that the Venereal Diſtemper having been brought from *America* in *Colombus's* firſt and ſecond Voyages, ſeveral of theſe *Spaniards* being in *Cordova's* Expedition in 1495, carried the ſame Diſtemper



Distemper into this Country. To this it is answered, that the Venereal Disease has already been proved not to have been introduced into *Europe* by any of *Colombus's* People at their Return from the first Voyage. It must also be proved, that the other *Spaniards*, who deserted from, or left *Hispaniola*, soon after the Admiral's Departure, could not have been in the Army of *Cordova*, nor in the Fleet commanded by the Count *de Trivulcio*. In order to this we shall begin by observing, that this Fleet sailed from *Alicant* in the Beginning of the Year 1495, and arrived at *Messina* on the 24th of *May* the same Year (1).

We have already observed, that *Peter Margarita*, having abandoned *Hispaniola* with several *Spaniards*, *Colombus* soon after, that is on the 24th of *February* 1495, dispatched

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(1) Mariana, ad an. 1495. Cap. VIII. Lib. XXVI.

*Anthony Torres* to *Spain* with four Ships, and what Criminals he had discovered in the Island. But granting that these *Spaniards* were infected with the Venereal Disease, or other Persons since *Colombus's* first return into *America*. Allowing also, that in *Cordova's* Army, which sailed from *Alicant* in the Beginning of the Year 1495 (2), there were some *Spaniards* infected, as *Oviedo* asserts, we have made it appear from Historians of the greatest Credit, that *Cordova's* Army never had any Intercourse or Communication with that of *Charles VIII*. We have also clearly shewn, that it was in the Month of *May* 1495, before *Cordova's* Army arrived at *Messina*; and that the Venereal Distemper was known in *Italy* at the Beginning of that same Year. Therefore it is needless to have Recourse to

(2) Decad. I. Cap. 4<sup>o</sup>. p. 10. b. Compluti 1500. fol.



to the Voyage of *Peter Margarita* and *Torres*, in order to prove that they, or their Crews communicated the Venereal Distemper to the Army of *Charles VIII.* before *Naples*. The Contradiction of the Times and the Places relating to the Motions of these two Armies are too notorious not to demonstrate, that the Venereal Distemper could never be introduced into *Italy* by *Cordova's* Army.

Besides these unanswerable Proofs, let us Appeal to three co-temporary Authors, who alone can clear up this Point of History more to our Satisfaction, than all those who have since written of it.

*Peter Martyr*, who published his History of the new World in the Year 1500, does not say one single Word about the Venereal Disease. *Ferdinando Columbus*, who was better informed than any other, is also entirely silent about it, till the Year 1498.

1498. yet each of them have given us a very particular Narrative of the Voyages, Wars, Diseases, Famines, and Shipwrecks, which the *Spaniards* went through in their Discovery of the new World.

*Oviedo* not only places the Epocha of the Appearance of the Venereal Distemper in the Year 1496, but, as an Eye-Witness, he says, (1) “ soon after the Year 1496  
 “ this Distemper was perceived a-  
 “ mong the Courtiers, yet never-  
 “ theless, at its first Appearance, it  
 “ was only found among the lower  
 “ Class of People.” But the original Words of the Author are more in our Favour: “ *y desde apoeos meses*  
 “ *el año suso dicho de mil mccccxcvi.*” He there speaks of *Colombus's* second Return in the Year 1496, and then adds, that a few Months after the Venereal Disease, which he there calls *Buas*, began to break out. We have

(1) Lib. II. Cap. XIV.



have already shewn, that it was in the Month of *June* 1496, when *Colombus* arrived in *Spain* from his second Voyage. If the Venereal Distemper began to appear within a few Months after, then this Disease began to spread in the Autumn 1496. It is observed by Physicians, agreeable to *Sydenham's* Opinion, that Epidemics of a Chronical Nature, begin about Autumn, and such is the Nature of the Venereal Disease. *Oviedo* says, that this Distemper was first taken Notice of among the Courtiers. The meaning in the Original is more clear: “ *Se començo a sentir esta dolencia entre algunos Cortesanos; pero en aquellos principios era este mal entre personas baxas y depoca Autoridad.*”

It has been the constant Observation of Physicians, that Epidemical Distempers always begin among the lower sort of People. This was  
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the Case of the Venereal Disease. Oviedo's whole Account is so well circumstanced, as shews him to have been living, and an attentive Observer of the Appearance of the Venereal Disease in *Spain*.

From the Histories of Plagues and Epidemics, it may be gathered, that their Progress is always from the East to the West, which Direction the Venereal Distemper has followed, beginning in *Italy*, and one Year and a half afterwards shewing itself in *Spain*. To enlarge on proving this Assertion, which may be done incontestable, would exceed the Limits of this Dissertation.

Thus these three Authors clearly prove, that this Distemper was not observed in any of the *Spanish* Dominions till the Autumn of 1496. Let us now consider the History of Navigation, which abounds with the strongest Proofs, that the Venereal



real Disease was not brought from *America* into *Europe*.

It is known, that the Island of *Java*, the Coast of *Malabar*, and other Parts of the *East-Indies*, are subject to an endemial Distemper, called *Mordechin* (1). There is also an endemial Distemper, called *Pedes Strumosi*, among those *Indians* who term themselves Christians of *St. Thomas* (2).

The Distemper, which the *English* calls the *Yaws*, but in *Guinea* Language is called *Pian*, is not only endemial to that Coast of *Africa*, but to all its Western Parts.

The Leprosy at *Carthagena* in *America*; the *Nigua*, or the *Dran-cunculus Avicennæ*, *Los Empeynes*, a kind of Leprosy, *Bicho*, which is a kind of inflammatory Fever, with

(1) History of the Academy of Sciences, Ann. 1708. p. 57. Entertaining Letters, Tom. IX. p. 250 & 254. *Thevenot*. Tom. III.

(2) Miscell. Medico-Physic. Decur. II. Tom. III. Observat. 13.

with an extreme Relaxation of the *Intestinum Rectum*, are so many endemial Distempers both on the Continent and Islands of *South America* (3); as that called *Boubas* by the *Portuguese* is throughout all *Brazil* (4).

During these two hundred and fifty last Years, the Parts have been frequented by *European* Ships; and what is more, several *Europeans*, after living there several Years, have returned directly into *Europe*, and yet it is certain that none of these endemial Distempers above mentioned have by these means been brought into *Europe*. So that it seems strange, that the Venereal Disease alone should have the Privilege of being conveyed from *America* in a Fleet, and spread over these Parts of the World by its Seamen. Thus it

(3) P. Guimilla Orinoque illustrado 4to. Madrid 1742. D. Antonio de Ulloa, Relacion Historica de la America Meridional, Tom. I. p. 62.

(4) Guilielm. Piso. Lib. II, Cap. XVI.



it is manifest, that the Opinion of those, who will have this Distemper to have been imported from *America*, is equally opposite both to Experience and Natural Philosophy.

*Sydenham*, that sagacious Observer of the Diseases of the Human Body, affirms, that if the different Alterations of the Air from Hot to Cold, and from Cold to Hot, had not the Power of extinguishing the Plague, the whole human Race, after once contracting this Contagion, would infallibly be swept away (1). How is it possible, that the Venereal Distemper being, according to *Oviedo*, endemial in *Hispaniola*, which lies almost under the Tropic, did not cease on their approaching the colder Climate of *Europe*, after a Passage of two Months at least? Would not the Contrariety of the

(1) Opera universa Edit. Lugd. Batavor, 1726. 8<sup>ve</sup>. p. 108 & 109.

Temperature in *Europe* have the Power of arresting that Venereal Virus, produced and fomented in a Climate where the Heat is violent and continual? Whence is it that those Distempers, which are endemial to *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, have not yet been transported into *Europe*? What *Sydenham* says relating to the Pestilence, abounds with the most convincing Reasons to prove, that if these endemial Distempers have not yet reached us, we are indebted for it to the different Alterations of the Air; but then, for the same Reason, the Venereal Distemper may be concluded to be under the same invincible Obstruction of being transported from *Hispaniola*, or any other Country beyond the Sea.

When the Pipe Worms, which greatly damaged the Ships and Dykes, appeared first in *Holland*, in the Year 1732, every Body exclaimed



claimed against *America*, and especially the *Caribee* Islands, whence it was concluded these Worms had been brought. But *Monf. Massuet*, (1) and many other ingenious Naturalists, were of Opinion, that this innumerable Quantity of Worms was nothing else, than a Vermicular Epidemia, which, in all Appearance, would not be of any Continuance. The Justness of *M. Massuet's* Sentiment has been abundantly verified by Experience, which always shews, that they who search into the usual Method of Nature's Operations, never have Recourse to far fetched Causes to explain any of its Phænomena. Directly such have been the Conjectures since the Year 1518, with regard to the Origin of the Venereal Distempers, every one would have it to have been transported from *America*;

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(1) *Recherches sur les vers a tuyau. Amst. 1733. 8vo. p. 130.*

but we have proved this Opinion to be as ill founded, as M. *Massuet* proved that with regard to the Origin of the Pipe Worms.

In tracing the Origin, and composing a History of the Venereal Distemper, this Error of bringing it from *America*, might have been avoided by attending to the Contradictions between the Epocha's of *Colombus's* Voyages, and those of the first Appearances of this Distemper in *Italy* and *France*; especially to the Date of the return from the second Voyage, which *Oviedo* fixes in the Year 1496, which Date is repeated no less than in three different Places, in his general History of the *Indies*. It is also in *Roman* Characters, which are less liable to be mistaken than the *Arabic* Cyphers, both in the *Spanish* Original, and in the *French* Translation, as well as the *Italian* one of *Rhamuze*. It has been clearly shewn,



shewn, that *Colombus's* Arrival in *Spain* was in the Year 1496, whilst their Catholic Majesties kept their Court at *Burgos*. How a Mistake of two Years in this Date came to be made is unaccountable (1). This Author tells us, that *Christopher Columbus* sailed on his second Voyage in 1493, and that he returned the following Year, 1494. In such Cases the strictest Accuracy is requisite in Dates, since there is no way of deciding the present Debate, but by a scrupulous and punctual Determination of the several Epochas before-mentioned. However, passing over several other Passages in *M. Astruc's* excellent Performance, we think it better to apply ourselves to prevent the Objections to which our own Work may be thought exposed.

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(1) Lib. I. Cap. XI. p. 81. lin. 45. edit. 1740. Par. 4to. 2 Vol.

We are informed in the Life of *Colombus*, that he set out on his third Voyage to *America* on the 30th of *May*, 1498, with six Ships. He touched at the Islands of *Cape-Verd*, where, after he began to recover from an inflammatory Fever, he was seized with the Gout. He observed, that the Leprosy was very common among the Inhabitants of these Islands, and that their Remedy for it was the Blood of a Tortoise. He farther takes Notice, that the Air in the Island of *St. Jago* is so very unhealthy, that three-fourths of the Inhabitants are constantly sick. Besides the above-mentioned Disorders, *Colombus* suffered also in his Eyes, during the Prosecution of his Voyage by the Islands of *Conchas*, *Cubagua*, and others towards *Jamaica*. At length, on the 30th of *August*, 1498, he arrived at *Hispaniola*, which he found in a very terrible Condition, the greatest Part of



of the *Spaniards* whom he had left there being dead, and above one hundred and fixty of the Survivors violently infected with the *French Pox*, which are the exprefs Words of the *Italian Translation* of his Life (1).

This is the first Article of the History of the *Indies* which mentions the Word *Pox*. But we shall soon shew, that either *Ferdinand Columbus*, or *de Ulloa*, his Translator, are mistaken in this Point. *Peter Martyr* says, that *Colombus* arrived at *Hispaniola* the 29th of *May*, 1498; and though he enlarges on the Calamities brought on this Island by Wars and Tumult, yet he makes not the least mention of

(1) *Historie de Ferdinand Colombo* from Chap. LXV. to Chap. LXXIII. from p. 151. b. to 164, &c. In Chap. LXXIII. p. 164.  
 “ Because a great Part of the People left by  
 “ him there were already dead, and of the  
 “ others, there were above an hundred and  
 “ fixty ill of the *French Distemper* (*di mal  
 “ Franceſe.*)

of the Venereal Distemper (2), not only in this Chapter but throughout his whole History.

Were we to grant, that the Venereal Distemper had at that time got footing in *Hispaniola*, that is no Reason for concluding, that this Distemper was originally of that Country, but rather the contrary, that it had been brought hither from *Europe*; for the Venereal Disease having began to shew itself in *Spain* in the Year 1496, according to *Oviedo's* Account, who was an Eye-Witness of the first Irruption of this Distemper (3), it is very probable, that it was carried over from *Spain*

(2) Decad. I. Chap. VI. p. 22. on the 29th of *May* of the Year 1698. *Colombus &c.* Chap. VII. *ibid.*

(3) Lib. I. Chap. XIV. p. 32. b. " So that  
" soon after the Year 1496, some Courtiers  
" were found to be infected with this Dis-  
" temper, though in its Beginning it was only  
" among the lower Class of People, and Per-  
" sons of small Account, and it was thought  
" certain, &c."



*Spain* to *America* in those Ships which went thither from *Spain*, after the Year 1496, it being certain, that not a few Ships were sent thither during the Interval between the second and third Voyages of *Colombus*. Therefore it should appear strange, that on his Arrival in this third Voyage he should find this Distemper in *America*: Nor ought it to be thence concluded, that the Venereal Disease is endemial to *Hispaniola*.

A careful Attention to the circumstantial Accounts of *Ferdinand Columbus* (4), *Oviedo* (5), *Peter Martyr*, relating to the Famines, Wars, Voyages and Shipwrecks, which the *Spaniards* underwent after the first Year of their landing in

(4) Cap. LXXIII. p. 164. b. " But after  
 " the first Year, coming to want the Con-  
 " veniences of *Spain*, and their Sickneses  
 " and Distresses continually increasing, they  
 " grew violently discontented, &c."

(5) In the Beginning of Chap. XIV. Lib. I.

in *Hispaniola*, will easily account for their contracting several Distempers, as the Cachexy, Jaundice, and Scurvy. Nor is it at all surprizing, that the Colour of their Faces was turned yellow, and that they had Ulcers in the Legs, Gums, and Mouth. *Oviedo* omits none of these Disorders, as may be seen in the above Citations.

Physicians know that upon the first clearing of a wild and woody Country, it emits Vapours capable of producing Distempers of all kinds, both acute and chronical. The *Portuguese* woefully experienced this, when they began their Plantations at *Pernambuco*. The *Dutch* also were exposed to the same Inconveniences, as *William Pison* often observes. To this may be added, that the *Spaniards* at that time in *Hispaniola* were destitute of all manner of Conveniences. According to *Peter Martyr*, in the Pro-



Prosecution of their Wars, they were obliged to lie all Night in the open Air, being destitute of Tents. Now it is well known, that the Dew, in Countries between the Tropics, is often the Cause of Pestilential Disorders. Unwholesome Provisions, and even Famine, together with all the Miseries attending Shipwrecks, are not less fatal to the Health of Mankind.

Such a Combination of Causes could not fail bringing Distempers on the hundred and fixty *Spaniards* whom *Colombus* found in a terrible Condition, without supposing it to be the Pox. I do not doubt but that the Distemper mentioned by *Ferdinand Colombus*, is expressed in the Original of the Word *Bobas*, or *Bouas*, which is used by *Oviedo*. The *Spaniards*, indeed call the Venereal Disease *Buas*, or *Bobas*, but they also give that Appellation to all red Pustules and Ulcers on any  
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Part of the Body. But however positive Oviedo is with regard to this Disease being common amongst the *Indians*, there is not a single Word of it throughout all *Peter Martyr's Decades*. Consequently the Silence of this Author, and also of *Ferdinand Columbus*, may justly bring the Truth of Oviedo's Account into Question (1). But in order to clear up this matter, it is proper to examine what that Distemper is, which under the Names of *Buas*, or *Bobas* in *Spanish*, and *Boubas* in *Portuguese*, seems to be endemial in *America*.

I am acquainted, but only with three Authors, who make mention of this Distemper. The first is *Aleyxo de Abreu*, who was a Physician in *Brazil*, in the Beginning of the

(1) Don *Antonio d' Ulloa*, Vol. II. Book VI. Chap. VI. p. 563. In his Historical Account of *South America*; says, "that though the Venereal Disease is so common in *America* it very rarely infects the *Indians*."



the last Century, and who has published a Treatise called *das Boubas e do mal de Loanda*. William Pison, who treats largely of this Distemper, proves it to be endemial in *Brazil*, and very different from the Venereal Disease (2). M. Cardoso Coutinho, a Physician of extensive Knowledge at the *Hague*, who besides being a Native of *Rio Janeiro*, practised Physic in *Brazil*, has given me the best Informations, I could any where gather, of the Existence and Nature of this Disease. I had wrote to him, desiring a farther insight into this Matter. In his obliging Answer, dated at the *Hague*, December 13, 1745. he acquainted me, that there was a very great Difference between the Distemper called *Boubas* and the Venereal Disease. Every Age is subject to the *American Boubas*, even

(2) De Indiæ veriusque Natur. Medic. Lib. II. Cap. XVI. p. 43.

Infants of one Year old, both Male and Female, though neither the Father, Mother, nor Nurse, were ever the least infected with the Venereal Disease. He added, that the Physicians in the Cure of these two Distempers, made use of different Remedies, and that the *Boubas* was not to be removed either by *Mercury*, *Guaiaicum*, &c.

A very accurate Description of the Distemper called the *Yaws*, in the Southern Islands of *America*, may be found in the *Physical Essays of the Edinburgh Society* (1). The anonymous Author assures us, that this Distemper is endemial in *Africa*, and that it was carried to *America* by *Negro* Slaves; and that this Distemper, both in its Symptoms, and Method of Cure, is very different from the Venereal Disease. The Sentiments of this Author on this

(1) Vol. V. Part II. p. 787. Edinburgh, 1744. 8vo.



this Head, are entirely agreeably to those of *William Pison*, and *Aleyxo de Abreu*. Yet this is the very same Distemper which *Sydenham* (2) and several others, who wrote before and since him, have confounded with the Venereal Disease.

It is very difficult to know certainly, whether this Distemper be endemial both in *Africa* and *America*; they who have given an Account of it, omitting to tell us, whether the Number of those liable to it in *America* be very considerable, and whether it be common to Blacks and Whites. One Particular is very certain, viz. that it is very different from the Venereal Disease. If it might fairly be supposed, that this Distemper called the *Yaws*, being primarily contracted in *Hispaniola*, was brought over into *Europe* by *Colombus* at his re-

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turn

(2) Opera universa, Lugd. Batav. 1726.  
8vo. Epistol. Respons. II. p. 327.

turn from his first Voyage, yet this is no Reason to conclude, that the Venereal Distemper flowed from the same Origin, there being such an essential and conspicuous Difference between these two Distempers. But nothing can be plainer than that neither of them came from *America*, since they are not so much as once mentioned either by *Ferdinand Columbus*, or *Peter Martyr*. Both these Authors, and especially the former, are very circumstantial in their Detail of the Distempers which reign in the Countries they describe, and the Remedies made use of by the Natives. So that it is not to be imagined, that they would have passed over in silence the Venereal Disease, if they had heard it mentioned in that Part of the World; and if any Person had been infected with it, he could not have avoided being taken Notice of, since the first Symptoms thereof



thereof appeared in the Face. Besides, it is impossible, that so dangerous a Distemper as that of the Veneral Disease, which had proved fatal to such great Numbers, and by which a still greater Number were horribly disfigured, should have escaped the Observation of Historians, who wrote the History of the Kings of *Spain*, and particularly that of the new World (1), yet *Hernando del Pulgar*, *Luccio*, *Marineo Siculo* (2), and *Alonso Estanques* (3), make not the least mention of it; tho' they give a particular Account of *Colombus's* Voyages.

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S E C T.

(1) Alexander Benedictus, Lib. XXVII. de menstruis et vulvæ, &c. Cap. I. p. 410. Edit. Venet. 1533. fol. " Pain was added  
" to Deformity, for we observe, that it de-  
" prives Patients of Eyes, Glands, Nose,  
" Feet, and other Parts of the Body."

(2) *Coronista de los Reyes Catholicos* Alcala de Henares 1539. fol.

(3) Manuscript in the Library of M *Cou-  
vay*, the Author whereof has writ the Life of  
*K. Ferdinand* the Catholick to his Death. 1516.

## SECT. VI.

*Of the Reasons which have led Authors, who have treated of the Venereal Disease since the Year 1516, to think that this Distemper owes its Origin to America.*

**A**LL the Physicians who have written on the Venereal Distemper, before the Year 1516, were unanimous in an Opinion, that this Disease was only an Epidemia, produced by the Influence of the Planets, or some malignant Quality, or Alteration in the Elements. *M. Astruc*, which is an Instance of his extensive Erudition, quotes all those different Authors, and relates their Sentiments. *Marcellus Cumanus*, *John Widman*, *Gaspar Torella*, *Bartholomew Montagnana*, *Anthony Benivenius*, *Wendelinus Lock*, *James Cataneus*, *Peter Trapolinus*, *John Almenar*, *John de Vigo*, and *Martin Bro-*



*Brocardus*, who all wrote at the time when the Venereal Disease was in its Infancy, assert it to be an Epidemia (1).

This was the received Opinion till the Time of *Nicholas Poll* (5). No sooner had this Author published, that the *Guaiacum*, which was of *Hispaniola* Growth, removed the Venereal Distemper, than all succeeding Physicians boldly asserted, that this Distemper also came from *Hispaniola*. Probably it was their Opinion, that the Distemper must certainly come from the same Place

(1) Vol. II. de Morbis venereis from p. 541 to p. 627.

(2) He lived in 1517. Vid. Astruc. ibid. p. 625. " By the fatal Consequences of the " said *French* Distemper, almost all were look- " ed upon to be in a desperate Condition, " when notwithstanding the several Medi- " cines made use of (and they were almost " innumerable) had not salutary Effect; but " the succeeding Cure of all of them by " *Guaiacum Lignum*, was accounted next to " a Miracle, &c."

Place with the Remedy. *Leonardus Schmaus* (1) was the first who expressly said, that the Venereal Distemper was originally derived from *America*; he also says, that *Guaia-cum* is a Specific for it. Indeed, herein he contradicts himself; for he adds, that this Disease was an Epidemia, arising from a noxious Quality in the Air, and the Irregularity of the Seasons. However, since this Author, the majority of Physicians, and Historians in general, have concurred in asserting, that the Venereal Disease came from *America*: Contrary to the Authority of those Authors who lived at the Time when this Distemper first appeared. There have, however, been some Authors of great Repute, who would not be biassed by the vulgar Opinion, as *M. Astruc* has justly observed. He quotes them all; but it will be sufficient for me to relate the Opinion

(1) He lived in 1518. *Astruc. ibid. p. 627.*



nion of *Fracastor*, who was the most learned and experienced Physician of his Age.

This Author was no Stranger to what *Oviedo* had said, concerning the Origin of the Venereal Disease, since it was to him that *Ramusa* dedicated his Collection of Voyages, among which is *Oviedo's* general History of the *Indies*; yet *Fracastor* is positive, the Venereal Disease is an Epidemia, and as a Proof of this Opinion, says (1), that this Dis-

(1) De morbis contagiosis, Lib. II. Cap. XII. p. 92, Venetus 1584. 4to. " As to  
 " the original Derivation of the Distemper,  
 " some have judged this Contagion to have  
 " been brought hither from that new World,  
 " which the *Spaniards* have discovered in  
 " their Voyages, where this Distemper is  
 " very common and violent. As a Mark of  
 " this they say, that this Distemper first ap-  
 " peared among us soon after the Voyages  
 " had been made thither, and an Intercourse  
 " contracted with that People. On which  
 " Account also it was first perceived among  
 " *Spaniards*. Thus they imagine, that this  
 " In-

Distemper is communicable abstractly from Coition ; and that he could not conceive how a Chronical Distemper could diffuse itself through all *Europe* in so short a Time, if its Principle had been only a Contagion landed in *Spain* at the Arrival of a Fleet. He adds, that at the same Time *Spain, France, Italy,* and the *North*, were infected with the Venereal Disease.

It

“ Infection entirely consists in a Contagion  
 “ from Person to Person : but the Truth is,  
 “ that though the greatest Part of the Sufferers contract this Distemper by Contagion, it is observable, that many others  
 “ have been afflicted with this Infection, immediately by themselves, without any Contagion. Besides, it would have been impossible that a Contagion of a slow Nature,  
 “ and first brought to *Spain* in one Fleet, should, in so short a time, have over-run  
 “ so many Countries ; since it is certain, that  
 “ at the same time, or at least very nearly,  
 “ it not only infested *Spain, France, and Italy,*  
 “ but *Germany* also, and reached even to  
 “ *Scythia.*”



It may be objected, that the *Spaniards* were without all doubt informed by the Inhabitants of *Hispaniola*, that the *Guaiaicum* was a Specific for the Venereal Disease ; which proves, at the same time, that these Inhabitants of *Hispaniola* made use of the same Medicine for the Cure of that Distemper. I answer first, that the *Guaiaicum* was not the only Medicine made use of for the Cure of the Venereal Distemper in the Time of *Oviedo* and *Rodrigo de la Isla* ; for the former plainly says (1), that the Insular *Indians* used *Guaiaicum* in the Cure of this Distemper, and those on the Continent made use of Herbs, which he does not name. The latter,

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(1) Sommario apud Ramuzium, Cap. LXXVI. p. 65. " Thus the *Indians* in the  
 " Islands cure it very easily with this Wood ;  
 " and on the Continent with Herbs and other  
 " Ingredients, they being excellent Botanists."

according to (2) *Welchius*, says, that not only the *Guaiacum* was used in curing the Venereal Disease, but also a Decoction of the *Indian Fig-tree*. The *Guaiacum* being of a balsamic Nature, which is very proper for curing Cachexies, Humid Scurvies, and Ulcers, which proceed from them, it is not at all strange, that the *Indians* should make use of this Remedy in such Cases. The *Spaniards*, who came to the Island of *Hispaniola*, being seized with the same Distempers, or having been infected with the Venereal Disease since the Year 1496, did not fail to make use of the *Guaiacum*, upon their being informed that this Medicine was a certain Cure in Distempers, whose Symptoms were very similar to those of

(2) *Welschius ad observationes Cumani*, p. 32. in *Sylloge curationum et observationum medicinalium*, 4to. "Water, or a most bitter Decoction of the *Indian Fig-tree*."



of the Venereal. So that there is no room for a positive Decision, that the Venereal Disease was endemial in *Hispaniola*, because the *Guaiacum*, which grows there naturally, performs such happy Effects in that Distemper, which it does in many other Cases.

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## S E C T. VII.

*The Venereal Disease is an Epidemical Distemper, which, beginning in Italy, at the same time spread itself into France, and over all the rest of Europe.*

**I**T has already been shewn, that the Venereal Disease began in *Italy* at the Time of *Charles VIII's* Expedition thither at the Head of a numerous Army. It has been also observed, that this Prince arrived at *Rome* on the last Day of

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*December, 1494, which induced us to conclude, that this Distemper began in the Autumn of 1494; or, at the latest, in the Spring of the Year 1495, both in Italy and France. We have likewise farther mentioned the Embarkation of Gonzalo Fernandes de Cordova's Army at Alicant, in the Beginning of the Year 1495. We have clearly proved, that Columbus arrived from his first American Voyage in the Month of May, 1493, and that not one Person in his Fleet had the least Touch of the Venereal Disease. We have also demonstrated, that Columbus's Return from his second American Voyage was not till above a Year afterwards, when the Venereal Disease was known in Italy and France, since it was not before the Month of April, 1496, that he arrived. In fine, it is not to be controverted after what we have said in the foregoing Pages,*  
*that*



that the Distempers which at that Time desolated *Hispaniola*, and which infected the *Spaniards* who came to *Spain* with *Peter Margarita*, were not Venereal, but Disorders brought upon them by Famine, and other Distresses, to which the *Spaniards* had been exposed, both in their Stay in *Hispaniola*, and in the Course of their Voyages.

These Facts being authenticated by Authors, not only Co-temporaries, but most of them Eye-Witnesses, nothing is more certain, than that the Venereal Distemper is an Epidemia of *European* Extraction. To give this Opinion the utmost Proofs it will admit of, and place it beyond all Controversy, I shall relate the Circumstances which precede, or usually accompany Epidemical Distempers, and compare them with those which preceded and accompanied the Venereal Disease.

Of all the Authors, who, from *Hippocrates* to the present Time, have treated of Epidemical Distempers, there is not one who does not mention some sensible Changes in the Elements, and great Irregularities in the Seasons. The Beginning of these Distempers are denoted by such violent and terrible Symptoms, as cause immediate Death. These Authors, and especially *Sydenham* (1), who is, perhaps, the most judicious of them all, unanimously say, that the Poison of Epidemical Distempers in their Beginnings is so subtile as to mix with the most volatile Parts of our Body, and that the Effects of its Passage through it are fatal. The Subtilty of this Poison decreases daily, becoming

(1) Cap. II. febr. pestilentis et pestis 1665 et 1662, p. 111. et seq. editionis Lugd. Bat. See also Vander Mye de morbis et symptomatibus popularibus Bredanis. Antwerpiæ 1627. 4to. & Isbrandi de Diemerbroek. tract. de Peste. Amstelodami. 1665. 4to.



coming more gross, and Death does not follow so immediately, as not to allow the Physicians time to make their Observations on the Symptoms of the Distemper. The Patients, who, in the Beginning of the Contagion were carried off in four, six, or twenty-four Hours, generally live to the third, and even the seventh Day. In short, when Epidemical Distempers have lasted for six Weeks, or three Months, the Grossness of the Poison still increasing, Nature struggles with it longer, whereby at last it overcome or gets the better.

The Historians and Physicians, who have given us the History of the Times in which the Venereal Distemper first appeared, are all full of the great Alterations in the Elements, and very sensible Intemperatures which happened in the Seasons, of which we shall produce some Passages.

*Nicholas Leoniceus* mentions great Inundations which happened over all *Italy* (1). The same is confirmed.

(1) *Opuscula*, Basileæ, 1532. fol. de morbo Gallico, p. 124. “Therefore we believe, “that the Distemper, commonly called the “*French Disease*, is to be classed among the “Epidemias ; that is, such as spread themselves gradually. After the Example of the “Physicians, in such Points, we shall point “out those Causes which seem most natural. This is certain, that in the same Year “when the *French Distemper* first appeared, “there happened great Inundations all over *Italy*. *Rome*, which at the same time was visited “with the Plague, was the first Sufferer, “(this happened before the Arrival of *Charles VIII.* at this Capital) the *Tiber* swelling to “such a Degree as to be every where navigable. In which we include not only those “Inundations of Waters, which incommoded “the City of *Rome*, but which also, about “the same time, did such vast Damages in “several Parts of *Europe* ; for the *Rhine* in “*Westphalia*, the *Po* in the Countries of *Ferrara* and *Bononia*, the *Atthesis*, in the Territories of *Venice*, overflowed their Banks, “with the same Violence as the *Tiber* did “at *Rome*.——The Air in the Summer contracted a hot and moist Intemperature—— “like



ed by *Alexander Benedictus* (2); and adds further, that the Seasons were very

“ like that of the Summer, when the *Goths* invaded *Italy*.

“ There were Famine, Pestilences, and Inundations——besides a kind of Itch——which so nearly resembled a Leprosy, that it disfigured Men too hideously to be known. Now have not we in several Parts of *Italy*, felt most, I may say all these Calamities; Inundations, as we have said, Scarcity, in some Places, the Pestilence, and besides these, Earthquakes——But an Itch, if it may be called an Itch, has over-run all *Italy*, and still continues its Violence. So loathsome, &c.”

(2) *Diar. de Betl. Carol. Venet. 1496. 4to. Lib. I.* “ There were Prefage of this in the Elements, the Rivers overflowing their Banks in an extraordinary manner, throughout all *Italy* in the Month of *October*, 1493. And among other Rivers, the *Athesis* carried away a large Bridge, &c. *ibid.* For the Spring was variable, and resembled an Autumn. The Mildness of this Season was very extraordinary——There being neither Snow nor Rain, so that he boasted of the uncommon Favourableness of the Weather, for, without the least Inconvenience, he could keep the Field all the Winter; which is very seldom

very irregular, not only in this, but also in the Year 1494. Besides those prodigious Inundations, which did such Damage in *Italy*, some Places were visited with the Pestilence; there were Earthquakes and Famines, and the Winter was as warm as Autumn and Spring usually are. So many Phænomena, are more than sufficient to produce epidemical Distempers. *Fracastor*, who has given us Instances of it, says, that such Alterations in the Seasons are always followed with Pestilential Epidemias (3).

Now let us examine the Symptoms by which the Venereal Disease, declared itself at its first Appearance. The dismal Condition to which the Patients were reduced, was so much the more worthy of Com-

“ seldom to be done, especially by those who  
 “ are not used to the Climate: the King (*Charles*  
 “ *VIII.*) encouraged by these Advantages,  
 “ marched against the Kingdom of *Naples*, &c.”

(3) Lib. I. de contagiosis morbis, Cap. III.



Compassion, as the greatest Part of them had not deserved it by any debauched Practices ; for this Distemper was not always the Effect of an immediate Contact. *Fracaſtor*, and several Physicians of that Time affirm, that it was often contracted without any libidinous Commerce. The same *Fracaſtor* relates (1); that

(1) Ibid. Lib. II. Cap. XII.

“ There were some visible Signs of this In-  
 “ fection, as Melancholy, Lassitude, Paleness,  
 “ and in general, Ulcers in the Parts of Ge-  
 “ neration, not unlike those which usually pro-  
 “ ceed from that Species of Corruption, called  
 “ *Caries*, but of a very different Nature ; for  
 “ these were not to be removed but by the ut-  
 “ most Difficulty, and when cured in one  
 “ Part, they continually broke out in ano-  
 “ ther. Scabious Pustules appeared on the  
 “ Skin, in some, and even the greatest Part ;  
 “ they began on the Skull, and in others, on  
 “ other Parts. At first, they were very small,  
 “ but by degrees they increased to the Size,  
 “ and not unlike the Cup of an Acorn, though  
 “ they were not all alike, for in some they were  
 “ small and dry, in others large and puru-  
 “ lent. In some they were livid, in others  
 “ whitish ;

that during the first thirty-five  
Years after the first Eruption of the  
Ve-

“ whitish ; in others again, they were hard  
“ and of a reddish Colour ; but of what kind  
“ soever they were, in a few Days they broke,  
“ and emitted a mucilaginous Pus. The  
“ Nauseousness and Quantity of a thin Mat-  
“ ter, which was continually flowing out is  
“ almost inconceivable. Afterwards they prey-  
“ ed upon the Subject like those Ulcers called  
“ Phagedenic, and they not only corroded  
“ the Flesh, but also, very often, penetrated  
“ the Bones. Where this Distemper began  
“ with such violent Symptoms, the Patients  
“ were subject to a Defluxion, which some-  
“ times eroded the Palate, sometimes the Roof  
“ of the Mouth, sometimes the Fauces, and  
“ Tonfils. Some Patients lost their Lips,  
“ some their Noses, some their Eyes, and  
“ some their Privities. — All the Limbs  
“ became languid, they were restless, dejected,  
“ extremely passionate, and lascivious. Their  
“ Faces and Legs swelled — What we  
“ now speak of were Things which are past,  
“ for within these twenty Years the Pustules  
“ have decreased, but the Ulcers of the  
“ Mouth have rather increased. — Besides  
“ this Distemper has also undergone a very  
“ great Change, even within these last Six  
“ Years, few or no Pustules being to be  
“ seen,



Venereal Distemper, the Minds of the Patients were at first disorder'd ; they felt a Lassitude throughout their whole Body, their Faces turn'd fallow ; soon after their Parts of Generation mortified ; Pustles broke out in their Forehead ; afterwards the Virus shewed itself in the Uvula, and the Lips ; then it penetrated into the Bones, and the Nose dropt off. The Venereal Disease, after raging with this Violence for above twenty Years, became more moderate. As its Poison began to be more Gross, its Violence abated ; the Blotches and Corrosions of the Flesh and Bones were diminished, and almost totally ceased ; but in their stead, appeared different kind of

“ seen, and the Pains also are greatly abated ;  
 “ but the above-mentioned Ulcers still re-  
 “ main ; and what seems very strange, it is  
 “ not attended with a Depilation of all Parts  
 “ of the Body, and what is worse, in its  
 “ present State, great Numbers not only have  
 “ their Teeth loosened, but also dropt out.

of Tumors. At length this Distemper seemed, in every Respect, to be greatly abated. In *Fracastor's* Time all its Symptoms were those Tumors, the falling off of the Hairs from every Part of the Body, and the Loss of the Teeth.

The State of this Distemper therefore appears to have varied three Times in thirty-five Years, and these Changes were sensible at the End of every ten Years. Upon comparing the above Symptoms with those mentioned by *Fallope*, and with those which have been observed in the same Distemper, from the Beginning of the present Century, the Difference will be found so great, as to incline one to imagine, that the Venereal Distemper is intirely different from what it was formerly. Possibly on some other Occasion we may more fully discuss this Subject, together with the Effects produced in the human



human Body by this modified, and if I may so call it, thus concealed Venereal Virus.

This being the Case, let Physicians determine whether it be possible, that a contagious Distemper admits of such a Change of Nature, and Abatement of its Violence. The History of the Small-Pox affords a satisfactory Decision of this Point. The Description given by *Sydenham* of this Distemper agrees, in every particular, with that of *Rhasis*, who wrote in the ninth Century. That the Small-Pox was first communicated to us by the *Saracens*, is an uncontroverted Certainty. Here then is an Instance of a contagious Distemper, whose Symptoms has constantly remained the same, whilst those of the Venereal Distemper has past through several Changes. This Difference is a Proof, that the Venereal Distemper was not originally communi-  
I cated

cated by Contagion ; but began suddenly in *Italy*, by a noxious Alteration in the Element.

If all the Proofs which have been already alledged in Confirmation of our Opinion, with regard to the Origin of the Venereal Distemper, should not appear conclusive, these Physical Arguments may be strengthened by Reason drawn from the Probability of Events. It has already been observed, that *Fracastor* could not conceive how the Venereal Disease could be derived from *America*, it having appeared at the same time in *Italy*, *France*, *Germany*, and all the Northern Countries. He might have included *Scotland*, and probably, *England* ; for there is a Law of *James IV.* of *Scotland*, dated the 22d of *September 1494* (1), which was enacted on Account of the Venereal

(1) Philosophical Transactions, N<sup>o</sup> 469. Art. V. p. 420.



nereal Disease, called at that Time *Grandgor*.

Now, it is evident, that Laws in such Cases are never made, till the Distemper is got to such a Height, as to infect most of the Subjects; so that it may justly be concluded, that the Venereal Distemper was in *Scotland* a Year or two before the Promulgation of that Law, as it had been in *France*, when the Parliament of *Paris* published an Arret on Occasion of the same Distemper in 1496. Consequently, the Venereal Distemper was known in *Scotland* in 1495, or at the latest in 1496, and at the same Time in *Spain*; for *Oviedo* says, that he saw the very Beginnings of it in that Kingdom in 1496.

It is very surprizing to find, upon consulting the Authors who have treated of this Distemper in 1496, that both *Asia* and *Africa* were at the same Time as much

infested with it as *Europe*. *Sebastian Brant*, *Joseph Grunpeck* (1), and *Sabellicus* (2), are all unanimous in asserting this, and a Fact warranted by so many Authors of Repute, who were Eye-Witnesses, must be indubitable.

Some may, perhaps, think it probable, that the Venereal Disease was carried into *Africa* by the *Jews*, who fled thither on their Expulsion out of *Spain*, by Order of their Catholic Majesties. What favours this Opinion, is a common Mistake made concerning the Time when the *Jews* were driven out of *Spain*. The true Date of this is prior to that which *Leo Africanus* assigns it (3). It was in 1492 that the *Jews* departed from *Spain*,

(1) Apud Astruc, Tom. II. de Lue venerea, p. 545 & p. 550.

(2) Ennead X. Lib. IX. p. 1037. edit. Basil. ad ann. 1495.

(3) *Africae descriptio*, Lib. I. apud Astruc. Lib. I. Cap. XI. p. 82.



*Spain*, to shelter themselves in *Portugal*, and the Coasts of the *Mediterranean*; for the Edict of their Proscription, which allowed them only four Months to remove, was published in the Month of *March* of this Year; which proves, that all the *Jews* who left *Spain*, departed in the Month of *June*, 1492. *Mariana* (4), is very express on this Head, and *Garibay* confirms it, which places it beyond all doubt. It is surprizing, that *Dr. Friend* (5), who was perfectly acquainted with the *Spanish*, did not consult these Authors, where he would have found full Information with Regard to the Truth of this Fact. When once it is demonstrated that the *Jews* left *Spain* in 1492, it is not to be supposed, that any of them had the least Touch of the Venereal Distemper before their

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(4) Lib. XXIV. Cap. I. ad ann. 1492.

(5) History of Physick.

Departure, because it was not till the Year 1496, that *Columbus* arrived in *Europe* from his second *American* Voyage, and his first Return was not till the Month of *April*, 1493. But by adopting the Opinion of *Leo Africanus*, that this Distemper was communicated to the *Africans* by the *Spanish Jews*, would be a Proof, that it was in this Kingdom some time before the *Spaniards* had any intercourse with the *Americans*. This Distemper can therefore by no means be said to be of *American* Extraction, as I have endeavoured to prove.

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## CONCLUSION.

I. **T**HE Venereal Distemper was known in *France*, and especially in *Italy*, before the Arrival of *Colombus* in *Spain* from his second *American* Voyage.

II.



II. The *Spanish* Army commanded by *Cordova*, did not communicate this Distemper to that of the *French*, these two Armies never coming in Sight of each other; and besides, the Venereal Disease was known in *Italy*, before the *Spanish* Army's Arrival at *Messina*. So that if the *Spanish* Soldiers did propagate this Infection in *Italy*, they were not, however, the original Authors of it.

III. The History of this Distemper proves, that it was originally an Epidemia. It was preceded and attended by all the concomitant Phænomena, which are productive of such a Distemper.

IV. We have shewn, that the Discovery of the *Guaiacum* in *Hispaniola*, has occasion'd a Mistake, with regard to the Origin of the Venereal Disease, it having been too hastily concluded, that a Distemper  
must

must be natural to the same Country, which naturally produces it Specific.

V. Lastly, we hope, that we have sufficiently answered the chief Objections which might be brought against the Facts we have advanced ; and we flatter ourselves, that whoever duly weighs the various Proofs we have alledged, will renounce an Error which we have detected, and acknowledge the Truth of the Facts we have so clearly established.

*F I N I S.*

